



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2013

Contact:

[Jeanine Jones](#), Interstate Resources Manager – (916) 653-8126

[Ted Thomas](#), Information Officer – (916) 653-9712

DWR Presents Climate Science Service Awards

SAN DIEGO – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today presented its 2013 Climate Science Service awards at a drought prediction workshop in San Diego sponsored by the Department and the Western States Water Council. The awards recognize ongoing assistance provided by scientists who have been working with DWR on climate research.

“DWR is pleased to acknowledge the exemplary assistance that these scientists have provided to us, and we look forward to a productive long-term working relationship in improving the ability to understand, monitor, and forecast extreme precipitation in California”, said DWR Director Mark Cowin. “This cooperative research effort between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and DWR has provided tremendous information about atmospheric river storms and their role in flood events and contribution to the state’s water supply.”

The award recipients are:

- Dr. Marty Ralph, Water Cycle Branch Chief in the Physical Sciences Division of NOAA’s Earth Systems Research Laboratory.
- Dr. Allen White, Research Meteorologist in the Physical Sciences Division of NOAA’s Earth Systems Research Laboratory

These scientists led NOAA implementation of a cooperative partnership between the NOAA Hydrometeorology Testbed program and DWR’s Enhanced Flood Response and Emergency Preparedness program to develop and install a 21st century observing system for extreme precipitation in California. The knowledge gained from this research project is already being used to improve forecasting of atmospheric river storms such as those that reached California in late November/early December 2012, refilling reservoir storage and saving the state from what otherwise would have been a very dry year. The research identified a major gap in existing hydrometeorological monitoring and precipitation forecasting – the limited ability to track and quantify water vapor transport across the Pacific Ocean and into California – and developed new methodologies and monitoring technologies to fill this gap.

-30-

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.